



Epsom Historical Association

NEWSLETTER

Catch up to the Past

March 2006

Sharon Burnston presents a program on Colonial Attire Sunday, March 26th

**Time: 2:00 Place: Town Hall
EPSOM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
OPENS NEW YEAR OF PROGRAMS**

There are, of course, no photographs from the Revolutionary period, and no paintings known that are from our town of Epsom during this time of American history - so just what was the look and appearance of Epsom's patriots of the time? Sharon Burnston, author and lecturer on Colonial period clothing, will give us the answer in a program on Sunday afternoon, March 26, at the old town hall.

Sharon has authored books and articles on this very subject, and her expertise on the subject is well sought after, and her contributions to such projects as the Daniel Webster Birthplace Living History Project showcase this expertise. She has used her knowledge in crossing into the world of designs and patterns, helping consult for TV miniseries, and more re-



cently, winning an award as NH Theatre Best Costume Designer for a recent stage production of '1776'. Additional information about Sharon Burnston is available online at sharonburnston.com.

The program is free and open to the public - so join us at 2:00 for an outstanding look at our ancestors during this fascinating period.



Mystery Building

A new postcard in the Epsom Historical Association archives, donated by the John Sawyer family, shows a previously unknown building bordering the Gossville Cemetery, with three young ladies standing in the front. Anyone with information as to what the building is, its use or purpose, should contact us - it is a curiosity! This is one of several photos new to our collection and our thanks go to the family of John Sawyer for their kind donation. Other recent additions include photos from the Deerfield Historical Society, and additional photos were loaned and scanned from Elsie Fife. Enough new photos have arrived to start scrapbook No. 9, and all the new photos are online at the Epsom Early Settlers website. If you have any photos to donate or loan for scanning, please contact us !

What's New

The Epsom Early Settlers website can be found at the epsomlibrary.com website by clicking the HISTORY button on the library's home page. New additions to the gallery include collections from the photos of Henry Dowst, Oscar Henricksen, Elsie Fife, Roland Garland, 1982 Old Homes Project and Scapbook #9.

New additions to the Historical Association is a quilt donated by Roland Garland dating pre-1900, and includes the names of those who worked on it. A tax bill from 1794 for Philip Marston for his non-resident land, was given to us from the Hampton, NH Historical Association. Also new are several postcards from the Deerfield Historical Association courtesy of Joanne Wasson. These cards will be added to Scrapbook No. 9 and are now viewable online. Also a ribbon from the 1907 Epsom Old Home Day from the Pittsfield Historical Society. The Epsom Historical Association thanks all for the additions to our growing collection. Remember, photos can be loaned for scanning and returned to you!

Epsom in 1776

No known portraits exist of Epsom residents during the Revolutionary period, so it is difficult for us to picture exactly how they looked. Today we have only the portraits in museums to give us an idea of the look and feel of the period - and such recreation portraits such as the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is hard to imagine men running around our town in three-cornered hats on horseback, and indeed that is the way it was. A short biography of Deacon John Cate (1732-1821) says "until the day of his death he wore his three cornered hat as one of the sons of Liberty" and "occupied the Deacon's seat and with a huge white wig and long staff by his side, would read and sing with a nasal twang according to the custom of 'ye olden times.'" Society and appearance was still somewhat dictated by class, a distinction which began to dissolve with the revolution. Just looking at old deeds will show this with such titles as 'gentlemen' 'Esquire' and 'yeoman' as well as showing occupations as cooper, wheelwright, inn keeper, cordwainer and so on.

ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

Annual Dues for the Epsom Historical Association are due the month of March. They can be paid at the upcoming meeting or mailed to: Penny Graham, EHA Treasurer, 1758 Dover Road, Epsom, NH, 03234.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00

Epsom in 1776, cont.

The Continental Congress had all communities list all the residents in the town through signing the 'Association Test' of which 68 were loyal to the cause. This gives us a good glimpse of who was in Epsom in 1776. There was a minister, John Tuck, though he had been previously dismissed in 1774; a physician, Obidiah Williams; Church Deacons Nathan Marden, John McClary and George Wallace and school teacher James Gray. There were several saw and grist mills, carding and shurking mills; some of these owned by Benjamin Shepard, Ephraim Locke, the McClary's, Cass and Cate families. The town also had several taverns, the most popular that of Andrew McClary, and most likely a couple small stores. By this time there was considerable activity on the original East Street, with residents such as Wallace, Yeaton, Youring and Towle families being established on Black Hall Road; Cass, Brackett, Haines and Davis families in New Rye; and Cate, Knowles, Odiorne and Moses on New Orchard Road. The town certainly was as diverse as most early New England towns, and its look and feel during the time of the American Revolution had to have been just as representative as the pictures and the portraits of the period.

2006 Epsom Historical Association Officers

President - Harvey Harkness

Vice President - Phil Yeaton

Secretary - Elsie Fife

Treasurer - Penny Graham

WILL of Mercy Bickford 1867

In the name of God – amen

I Mercy Bickford of Epsom in the County of Merrimack and State of New Hampshire, considering the uncertainty of this mortal life, and being of sound and perfect memory, blessed be Almighty God for the same, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say;

1st I do give and bequeath unto my beloved niece Charlotte Goss, wife of Daniel Goss of Salisbury in said State, whatever furniture and other articles I shall leave at my decease in my front room.

2nd I do give and bequeath unto my grand niece Lucy Dow, wife of Samuel Dow of Northwood Narrows of said State, one bed, bedstead and bedding, sufficient to make up the same.

3rd I give and bequeath to my executor the sum of fifty dollars in trust to be paid to the Wardens of the Free Will Baptist Church in said Epsom whenever sufficient money shall be raised to purchase a bell for the Free Will Baptist Meeting House, the said sum shall be appropriated to that purpose.

4th I do give and bequeath unto the Free Will Baptist Church and Society in said Epsom all the money that may remain in the N.H. Savings Bank at Concord, N.H., belong to me at my decease, to be appropriated to the support of a minister of the Gospel of the Free Will Baptist order who shall preach in the Free Will Baptist Meeting House in said Epsom.

5th and lastly, I do hereby constitute and appoint Samuel M. Green of said Epsom my sole Executor of this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty sixth day of September 1867.

Mercy Bickford

Witness L.W. Peabody, E.S. Dutton, B.R Dutton.

ID Help Wanted

Mercy, (whose will appears opposite) was the second wife of Thomas Bickford, who died in 1865, his first wife was Keziah Collins. Her parents are unknown, but if Charlotte Goss, wife of Daniel is her niece, then she is a sister to one of her parents – Charlotte was Charlotte McDaniel, daughter of Robert McDaniel and Nancy Keniston. Unfortunately, she is not listed in any McDaniel Genealogy and parents of Nancy Keniston are also unknown. Her grand niece, Lucy Dow, wife of Samuel Dow of Northwood, was Lucy Ann Yeaton, the daughter of John Yeaton and Lucretia G. McDaniel, Lucretias parents were Robert McDaniel and Nancy Keniston. If you can shed any light on the identification of our Mercy McDaniel/Keniston, please let us know! Also, the parents of Thomas Bickford's first wife, Keziah H. Collins is unknown to us, so information as to her parents is also welcome.

New Publication

Floral Park and Hillside:

History, Development and Headstone Inscriptions, Volume I, by Larry Berkson

This book, available through the Pittsfield Historical Society and Pittsfield Town offices, is the first of several volumes with the history and cemetery inscriptions from cemeteries in Pittsfield, New Hampshire. This first volume, released late last fall, focuses on the history of the Floral Park and Hillside cemeteries, as well as additional information on some of the more unique tombs and plots. Headstone inscriptions and plot maps round out this excellent resource.

The inscriptions in the book were matched against people in the Early Epsom Settlers database of over 34,000 names, and over 600 of these are burials in the Floral Park/Hillside Cemeteries. These final resting places were added to the database, as have been those from the Chichester and Deerfield cemetery records, showing the close ties of these neighboring communities with Epsom's early settlers.

Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) Files @ Epsom Early Settlers Website

A lot of the content on the world wide web is in various formats, and most of the pages you view are .html format, the computer language the web reads and translates for you to view. An alternative and popular format is one that Adobe invented and are called Adobe Acrobat Files, or .pdf files. This format basically is a picture version of a page, which retains the original quality of the text and photos on that page. Much of the information on the web pages at Epsom Early Settlers is first done on a word processor or web page making program before being sent up to the world wide web. Taking the original material and photos and making them Adobe Acrobat files instead (which are also viewable on the web) gives them an advantage in quality and ease of viewing. In the last year, virtually all the content at Epsom Early Settlers is in both formats. The Adobe Acrobat files require that you have a reader that is specifically designed to view them, and it is a free download to your computer from the Adobe website.

Once you have the reader, you can view these files while you are online OR you can copy the Adobe Acrobat file you are interested in, right to your hard drive, by clicking 'save a copy' while viewing. This will make the file available to you when you are not online, and viewing the file is usually quicker than when viewing during your online time. Since many of the files are over 100 pages in length, it certainly is better to have it on your hard drive to view at your leisure - and better still - you can print it out and view it in its original splendor! The Adobe Acrobat reader also allows you to easily search the document, and is easily accessed on your hard drive by simply double clicking the acrobat file, and the reader will automatically start so you may search or view the file.

If you printed out all the Adobe Acrobat files at the Epsom Early Settlers, you would have over 2200 pages of history and records. Many of the large diaries online are much easier to view and use in the Adobe Acrobat format, and are easily found together on the home page of the Epsom Early Settlers website - scroll down the page to view them or save them to your computer.

Cemetery Transcriptions

No. 31

Perkins Philbrick Cemetery, off North Road.

Philbrick

Oliver, In memory of, son of Perkins and Hannah (Furnald) Philbrick who died Nov. 22, 1821 AE. 15 yrs & 3 mo

Olive (Garland), wife of Perkins Philbrick, Born North Hampton, N.H., Apr. 12, 1759; Married Mar. 27, 1785; Died Oct. 28, 1803.

In Memory of Joseph Philbrick who died March 2, 1835

John H., In memory of, son of Joseph & Martha W. (Ham) Philbrick, died July 6, 1832 AE. 3 yr' 7 ms & 12 ds

Mr. Perkins Philbrick died Feb. 1, 1838, AE. 79 years

No. 24

Mountain Road Cemetery, New Rye at the home of Gordon Ellis

Libbey

Emma A., dau of M.M. & Mary Libbey, Died Oct. 2, 1860 AE. 20 yrs (see page 45)

Moses

Dearborn B. Moses DIED Aug. 23, 1881. AE. 76.
Sally H. (Locke), Wife of Dearborn B. Moses, DIED Sept. 5, 1886. AE. 74.

Mary E. dau. of Dearborn B. & Sally H. Moses, DIED Aug. 21, 1848. AE. 4 mo. & 8 d's

Elvira (Dolbeer), wife of Mark S. Moses, died 1853 AE. 38 years (illegible see p. 68)

Elisabeth, wife of M.... (Rest of stone disintegrated, footstone E.M. remains)